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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

PENN SCHOOL CLUB

FOR COLORED BOYS

OF GERMANTOWN

1905-1906

Miscellaneous
printed matter

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PENN SCHOOL CLUB OF GERMANTOWN

(FOR COLORED BOYS)

1905-1906

The rapid progress made in our work at the Penn School Club during the past season (1905-1906) has been a source of encouragement to the young men and women actively engaged in the work, and has been gratifying to our friends who have given us their personal and financial support.

This bulletin is not published with the idea of bringing to the notice of those interested in the movement the marked increase in the attendance of the boys and the workers, but we do wish to call their attention to the fact that the efficiency in the work has increased in greater proportion than the addition of new names to the rolls.

Some of the organizations of this character are founded on the belief that if, through entertainments, industrial classes or athletic sports, the boys are kept off the streets the mission of the work is fulfilled. Naturally, if a boy is kept away from the influences of bad companions, he is that much better off; but our work lies in the molding of the hearts and minds of the young men so that they can resist the Tempter, and this can be accomplished only through the contagion of personality. Therefore, through our industrial classes, entertainments and athletic sports, we have provided different means by which we can bring the proper influences to bear on the characters of the boys.

Now the attitude of the colored boy towards work in general must be considered in the light of the history of his ancestors, who for many years as slaves were forced to do any sort of labor as their owners pleased, their individual tastes and often their abilities being entirely ignored. Besides this, they seldom received any compensation for faithful service. It is not strange, then, that we find many of our boys cherishing the ideal of idleness as bliss. Therefore, we aim to instil in them a real love for honest labor, and to teach them that, as Stevenson says, "it can give them the profit of industry, with the pleasures of a pastime." We believe we have met with some success in this, for the Club meetings for industrial work are better attended than the "Saturday Night Entertainments," and we cannot

attribute this to the poor character of these entertainments, for, as a rule, they have been of a high order and have afforded the boys attending them a lot of wholesome fun.

The cobbling class has been especially improved under the instruction of a professional colored shoemaker. One boy, who is a member of a family of eight or nine children, may be seen eagerly at work every class night, mending the big and little shoes of his brothers and sisters. Sixty-four pairs of shoes have been mended this year.

Our best attainment has been, we believe, a better knowledge of how to teach. This can come only by experience, and every year should find us better able to supply the needs of the boys. We notice in connection with our class work this year that the boys learn quicker, are able to accomplish more work and do it more perfectly than a year ago; and the best part of it all is the boys seem anxious to learn.

It has been decided by students of the subject that the much vexed "Negro problem" cannot be solved through the medium of politics or arbitrary laws. The sole hope for the Negro is in judicious

education, and in throwing refining influences around the younger generation. This mainly is the aim of the Penn School Club. It is intended to gather the young colored population from the street environments, give them rational amusement, physical and mental, teach them the rudiments of certain useful industries, and encourage in every way possible any originality or trend of mind that an individual member may exbibit.

The object of the work, the play, the entertainments, etc., is gradually to train the receptive minds of the boys in new spheres of thought and action, which may eventually lead them into a realizing sense of their duties as citizens and the opportunities that may lie at the door of even the humblest worker in this great Republic.

The weekly program of the Club is as follows :

(1) Tuesday night is Club night, with an average attendance of thirty-five boys and twelve teachers. This night is set aside for games for the first quarter hour, industrial work for one and a quarter hours, while talks by the teachers or friends and singing by the boys constitute the closing exercises. There are five classes, namely : metal work, basket weaving, leather stamping, cobbling and carpentering. During the summer, the boys will be instructed in gardening.

(2) Thursday night is set aside for the Junior basket ball team.

(3) Friday night is Senior basket ball night.

(4) On Saturday night the boys are entertained either by teachers or friends of the Club, or by professionals obtained through amusement bureaus. An average of twenty boys and five teachers attend these meetings.

We have not endeavored to organize an industrial school, but we believe that he who guides the hand may mold the heart; nor have we formed an athletic club, but we well know that clean manly sports teach self respect, courage and fair play.

What have we accomplished? To answer this question we do not refer you to the roll book nor to the bank account, and we earnestly wish to be kept from the slavery of the addition table, but we refer you to the boys. If in their eyes you can see laughter instead of tears, pride instead of shame, self-control instead of embarrassment, courage instead of cowardice, and instead of lies the truth, we know then that we are fulfilling our mission.

We depend entirely for financial support upon voluntary contributions of those who desire to see our work prosper.

You will find inclosed a form to be filled out and sent to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, if you wish to help us. We would emphasize the great need of annual contributions.

Will you not respond liberally to this appeal, so that our work for the colored race in our little section of America may be made effectual for good?

WILLIAM EDWARD CADBURY, *President.*

MILDRED WHITALL, *Chairman of Finance Committee,*
Magnolia Avenue and Church Lane, Germantown, Pa.

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Miss Alexander
Miss Haines
Miss Peacock
Miss Pitfield
Miss Powell
Miss Reeve
Miss Roberts
Miss Smith
Miss Tilge
Miss Whitall
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